



NOTES FROM NINE-FIFTEEN

VOLUME 1 , ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2008

DEAR FRIENDS:

In the past few months, our Agency has been shining in its efforts to serve California. And though temperatures have been baking most of us throughout the state, I know that all of you have been burning the midnight oil with your hard work. I tell people all the time, wherever I travel, that I have the best job in the entire world. And I've met people in disbelief of my enthusiasm, but I am telling the absolute truth. Each of your contributions makes state government more effective for the public, and it makes my job that much more enjoyable. In the past few months, I have had the great pleasure of attending many department events, and each one has left me impressed and pleased. Great work everyone!

As the temperatures start to soar this summer, I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to be even more energy conscious. Thank you to all of our departments who are already doing their part to save water and flex their power to reduce the state's dependence on the grid. Simple actions can make the biggest difference. For example, I charge my staff 25 cents if I see the lights on in their empty offices. I have now earned the nickname the "green queen," and I wear my tiara with pride!



I hope you all have some fun activities or travel planned with your families in the upcoming months. Enjoy the sunshine, and have a great summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Rosario Marin in black ink.

Rosario Marin, Secretary

DON'T MISS
THE DUNK TANK!

Dunk Secretary Rosario Marin and other members of the Cabinet on
August 20th from 12 to 2pm at Roosevelt Park, 9th & P Streets, Downtown Sacramento!

Proceeds benefit California State Employees Charitable Campaign!

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ON THE ROAD AGAIN...

Each day 6.8 million Californians – half our state's workforce – go to work at small businesses across the state. Their work in construction, manufacturing, and service industries allows the small business sector to grow and drive our economy. Governor Schwarzenegger is committed to making sure that those of us in State government continue to do everything we can to help create new small business opportunities, grow existing businesses, and push state departments to contract more with small business.

This summer, SCSA will be hitting the road and reaching out to small business owners. Agency's very own Secretary Marin along with the Department of General Services will be traveling up and down the state. Our goal is to educate business owners about how to get themselves certified to do business with the state and answer any questions about the contracting process.

California's state government spends \$9 billion per year through contracts with small businesses. Last year, 28.3 percent of the state's contract spending was done with small businesses and disabled veterans business enterprises. While last year's numbers exceeded the Governor's Executive Order and is a great stepping stone, more work can still be done.

Making it easier to contract with the state is just one more way for small businesses in our state to flourish, and California is looking forward to telling its residents how government is working for them.

FOLLOW THE
TOUR WITH
THE EVENTS
CALENDAR!:

[HTTP://
WWW.PD.DGS.CA.G
OV/RECIPRO/
EVENTS.HTM](http://www.pd.dgs.ca.gov/recipro/events.htm)



CELEBRATING... TAXES?!



On April 30th, Secretary Marin applauded the Franchise Tax Board's hard work on the Ready Return Program with a celebration. Along with punch and cookies, the Franchise Tax Board team was presented an award to spotlight their efforts, which Director Selvi Stanislaus happily accepted on behalf of her staff. The ReadyReturn Program was developed to help take the hassle out of filing taxes for thousands of Californians. The program takes information from the previous tax year to create a pre-filled form for taxpayers to review, make necessary changes, and file their return. Great job Franchise Tax Board!

DON'T BE A SMOG HOG: GET YOUR CAR A CHECK-UP

Every day, thousands of poorly maintained vehicles travel California's streets and highways. These vehicles can be significant contributors to air pollution. In fact, a poorly maintained vehicle can release as much as ten times the emissions of a well-maintained vehicle of the same make and model. To reduce the amount of emissions a poorly maintained vehicle can discharge, the Department of Consumer Affairs has begun a campaign, called DriveHealthy.com, to educate car owners on how to make their cars as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible. Simple maintenance techniques can make a difference in the amount of pollution your car emits into the environment. The following are some quick maintenance tips that the DriveHealthy.com campaign suggests to properly maintain your vehicle:

- Change engine oil and air, oil and fuel filters and manufacturer's suggested intervals.
- Perform all other service and maintenance at manufacturer's suggested intervals.
- Check tire pressure frequently.
- Check tire condition for abnormal wear patterns.
- Inspect hoses, wiring and belts regularly.
- Service engine promptly when warning lights appear.
- Never modify your vehicle's emission control system.

Important: Did you know that if your car fails a Smog Check, you may be eligible to receive cash to retire your car or receive assistance to repair it? Qualified motorists whose vehicles fail a Smog check can get \$1,000 to retire their vehicles, or can receive up to \$500 in state assistance to repair their vehicles. For more details, visit www.drivehealthy.com.



Rosario Marin, Secretary, SCSA; Sherry Mehl, Chief, Bureau of Automotive Repair; Carrie Lopez, Director, Department of Consumer Affairs

SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE— SHARE THE FUN!

Every office has its share of speed bumps when it comes to trying to get programs and policies to run smoothly. Now there is a website where State departments and their employees can share their best practices and provide helpful tools for others. All State personnel is encouraged to participate in commenting on postings, as well as posting best practices of their own. State government is a large interactive program which greatly benefits from new ideas and adjustments to current policies. Do you hold the missing piece for making State government more effective?

Visit the website:

www.bestpractices.ca.gov





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VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

WWW.SCSA.CA.GOV

BUDGET CRUNCH: HOW TO BE PREPARED



This year, the Governor has been touring state-wide for the better part of six months to educate the public about California's broken budget system. The Governor knows that the system needs to be fixed and has challenged the Legislature to begin the conversation of change. While difficult decisions are being made and considered, this could mean a long summer for state employees who don't know if their paychecks will be affected by the missed budget deadlines. After July 1, if a budget has not been enacted, approximately 600 appointed staff of state elected officials will not receive their paychecks. These 600 employees will be notified by the Department of Personnel Administration via a letter sent to their home address. Should an agency employee have any questions, please contact a personnel representative.

SEE YAH, MR. HARVEY & MS. WEBB!



In June, Agency said farewell to two fantastic staff members. Scott Harvey, one of SCSA's larger-than-life members, sought greener pastures over at the Department of General Services. And while we at Agency will dearly miss his pink (sorry, salmon) pants, we know that the state's green benchmarking is one of his passions and that he will be a great asset to DGS. Good luck, Scott. We miss you!



Kathleen Webb, former Director of the Governor's

Office of the Insurance Advisor, has also followed Mr. Harvey to DGS to continue to pursue her newly discovered passion for public service. After two decades in the private sector, we are pleased to announce that SCSA has taken all the credit in convincing Ms. Webb that public service is where it's at! Congratulations, Kathleen!

